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Friday, February 8, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

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US defense chiefs backed arming Syria rebels

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on Thursday admitted for the first time that the Pentagon had backed proposals to arm the Syrian opposition battling to oust President Bashar al-Assad.

The idea was first floated by former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who met privately with David Petraeus, then CIA chief, in the summer of 2012 as the fighting raged in Syria.

They proposed vetting rebel groups and training fighters in a plan which they presented to the White House, according to the New York Times, citing administration officials.

But the administration of President Barack Obama was worried about the risks of pouring more arms into the volatile conflict and rejected the idea, sticking instead to providing humanitarian assistance and non-lethal aid.

Panetta and the chairman

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Martin Dempsey, admitted under questioning in the Senate Armed Services committee that they had both supported the idea.

"I would ask again, both of you, what I asked you last March when 7,500 citizens of Syria had been killed. It's now up to 60,000. How many more have to die before you recommend military action?" Senator John McCain asked them.

"And did you support the recommendation by then secretary of state Clinton and then head of CIA General Petraeus that we provide weapons to the resistance in Syria? Did you support that?"

"We did," replied Panetta. "We did," added Dempsey.

Panetta told AFP in an exclusive interview last week that Washington is increasingly concerned that the chaos in Syria may allow Hezbollah to obtain sophisticated weapons from the Damascus regime.

Aruba's Female Softball team makes history and wins Caribbean championship



Softball has always been a favorite sport on Aruba, but what has changed in recent years is that there is also a grand interest in the sport by females. Our female team has just returned from the Bahamas where they won the necessary games against the islands to obtain the title of Champions of the Caribbean. This team is now poised for the famous World Series Fast Pitch Softball in the USA. Here they will not just represent their island, but the entire Caribbean.

The government had many words of praise for our female softball team and for their tremendous performance in the Bahamas. All the players are highly motivated and are eager to do their utmost in the upcoming games in the USA.

The team was assured that they will receive a complete program of training planned by CEMEDAR consisting of medical professionals and top scientists in sports medicine. The complete team will also receive top sport training on techniques as well as psychological, medical and emotional preparation.

According to the Minister

of Sports, "...we will give the team all the needed support so that they can put their maximum potential to work for them. We want to position our team among the top 10 in the world. If we achieve this, we will put our seal on fast pitch feminine softball, which will be something very great for Aruba, which we can continue building on."

Reportedly, this year we broke all records with donations to the various foundations. For the first time in the history of Aruban sports, we donated 4.5 million Florins to

local sports. This has resulted in a positive growth in the various branches of sports.

This particular team boasts a group of girls who are very fit and in excellent physical condition, not overweight, like some of the team mates of the other islands. Some of the members began playing at the early ages of 6 and 9 years. Hence, they are well-experienced. Now, with excellent coaching, technical input, and guidance by CEMEDAR, Aruba can only expect the best from them at the World Series.

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Loyal visitors honored at Divi Aruba All Inclusive



Recently Aruba Tourism Authority honored a group of Goodwill Ambassador at Divi Aruba All Inclusive: Anne and Windy Hamlin resident of USA; Michael and Patrick Szczepanik resident of Lake City Michigan and Joseph and Francis Harnedy resident of Framingham Massachusetts.



The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive.

The honorees are members of Divi Aruba All Inclusive and have been enjoying the Island every year.



Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at Divi Aruba All Inclusive.

Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were they consider *Aruba to be the "Happy Island," the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality.*

Aruban professionals abroad needed in our local labor force



According to the government, one of the sub-divisions of the 2013 projects programmed to be conducted by the Department of Labor & Investigation is how to attract the many Arubans abroad who would like to return to Aruba. Over the years, many Arubans went abroad to study and because they could not find employment here after their study, they made the decision to stay abroad.

It has often been the topic of discussion....we want our Arubans to return here to work in Aruba. But, we have not created a system that would ensure them the positions they would want in order to return to Aruba, according to the Minister of Labor.

It is also no secret that many professional Arubans are unable to secure jobs in their particular field in Aruba, and as a result return abroad to find those jobs.

The government is intent on, based on the results of the investigation to be conducted by DAO, creating work in our local labor force for Arubans who want to continue their professional life here at home. According to Oduber, there is a great sense of lack of these young professionals in our local work force. And, we need to address and correct this situation so as to create a much better functioning in our community.



NOTIFICATION

For the past few years the Government of Aruba has considered the introduction of a moratorium on the building of hotel, timeshare and condominium projects. As a preamble to a moratorium, the Minister of Tourism, Labour and Transportation, has set policies in place to restrict the expansion of such hotel accommodations and at the same time allow for growth in specific geographical locations (e.g. San Nicolas) and for specific types of properties (e.g. boutique hotels). The Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Labour therefore, hereby announces that he expands his policy on accommodations to include the following: Hotel management companies (new or existing) that wish to introduce an all-inclusive hotel operation or a condominium operation need prior written approval from the Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Labour and the Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture.

Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Labour
Otmar E. Oduber

Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture
Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar

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Mrs. Slavunos



Mrs. Jeanette McWilliams



Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand is the place to play right now! The cash prizes are flowing out and happy

players are leaving with big smiles on their faces.

Recently, **Mrs. Robin Slavunos** was one of those happy winners. Mrs. Slavunos found her lucky streak in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win."

She won a total amount of **\$4,000** while playing on the brand new slot machine "Bonus Poker."

Another happy winner was **Mrs. Jane Montesano**, who won a total amount of **\$1,022,50** at the Aura Casino while playing on the brand new slot machine "Wild Huskies."

Mr. Julian Pepin also decided to join the winners. Mrs. Pepin won a total amount of **\$2,000,-**, playing the slot machine "Bonus Poker"

And the winning just continues at the Aura Casino as **Mrs. Jeanette McWilliams** also finds her lucky streak in the Casino "where players win".

Mrs. McWilliams won a total amount of **\$1,147,40** at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand while playing on the brand new slot ma-

chine "Golden Maiden"

Mr. Micelo Angelini was also another happy winner after walking away with the nice sum of **\$2,500**, won on the slot machine "Black & White Double Jackpot"

Staff & Management want to congratulate all the lucky winners and invite everyone to come and win at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand: "Where players win."

The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach.

Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners!

Obama urges humility amid Washington dysfunction

WASHINGTON (AFP) - After a morning of scripture and piety, President Barack Obama on Thursday lamented that an annual National Prayer Breakfast had a "shelf life" measured in minutes in poisoned US politics.

Obama, headlining the annual multi-faith event, called on his fellow political leaders to show humility and to work together despite often fierce disagreements in the US capital's partisan swamp.

"This is now our fifth prayer breakfast... and it is always just a wonderful event, but I do worry sometimes that as soon as we leave the prayer breakfast, everything we have been talking about... seems to be forgotten."

"You would like to think the shelf life wasn't so short. I go back to the Oval Office and I start watching the cable news networks..." said Obama, who appeared reflec-

tive and emotional during his speech at a Washington hotel.

Obama used the example of the humility shown by his political heroes ex-president Abraham Lincoln and civil rights icon Martin Luther King to call on lawmakers to bridge divides despite sharp disagreements.

"My hope is that humility, that carries over every day, every moment," Obama said.

"Let me suggest that those of us with the most power and influence need to be the most humble," said Obama, who often bemoans the spiteful US political discourse, even as his Republican foes brand him as a divisive figure.

The president spoke five days before he is due to deliver his State of the Union Address next week, that will contain policy prescriptions likely to be opposed in full by Republicans.

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'Indian Association of Aruba celebrates its 64th Republic Day on Aruba



Board Members with Dignitaries

Recently, the 'Indian Association of Aruba celebrated its 64th Republic Day on Aruba with fervor and enthusiasm. Its on 26th January that India got its own constitution and



became a sovereign Republic severing all its connections with the British Empire. This day is celebrated in India with great fanfare every year. The invited dignitaries received their pins with the logo of the Association. After the usual protocol, the community and invited dignitaries enjoyed the evening with cocktails and special Indian dishes.'



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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL



Child moons China's premier-to-be

BEIJING, China (AFP) - State media coverage of a routine visit to a home by China's incoming premier Li Keqiang has become a colourful Internet sensation after a boy appeared on camera half-naked.

Internet users were on Thursday circulating the CCTV state television footage from the northern city of Baotou, cheering the rare unplanned blip in usually staid government-controlled coverage of officials' tightly scripted trips.

Li -- who is set to be promoted to national premier next month -- was speaking with the man of the house in a modest bedroom when the boy popped out of a wardrobe behind them not wearing any underwear.

He quickly ducked under the blanket of a bed, exposing his buttocks to the cameras as he did so.

"The kid was having fun as if there was nothing special going on in front of him, it was amusing," said one Internet user going by the name Hongtailang. "It is rare to see this kind of image on TV."

State television regularly reports on the public appearances of senior leaders as part of a vast propaganda effort controlled by the ruling Communist Party.

"It's so nice when things are spontaneous and true!" said another user.



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Belgian chocolate stamp has it licked

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Belgium has launched a new stamp sure to delight chocoholics around the world.

"We have added a chocolate taste to the glue of the stamps... which you can taste when you lick it," the Belgian postal service said.

"The stamps are also imbued with the smell," it said, while the design side carries pictures of chocolate in various forms.

"It was not easy to get the

scent and flavour of the dark chocolate right. In the end, people from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland all worked on it," it said.

"It is not the first scented stamp ... but this time it has been combined with a flavour."

The series of five stamps, intended for overseas mail, will cost 6.20 euros when they go on sale March 25.



WE GET MAIL

Celebrating Engagement

My husband and I have been coming to Aruba for 12 years and our daughter Lisa has always come with us. Six years ago, on February 11, her then boyfriend Dan Hindley had come with us. That night they were going to one of our favorite places for dinner, Simply Fish. Dan asked that could we all go together as he was going to propose to our daughter. As he made a toast, he got down on one knee in the sand and proposed. Of course she said yes!!

They have now been married 5 years and have a beautiful 2 year old son, Shane Kevin. They still come every year and celebrate that evening with a romantic dinner at Simply Fish.

Marian Lacatena



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White House demands quick Senate action on Hagel



Chuck Hagel

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House warned Thursday that America could not afford to be without a defense secretary, after Republican moves delayed a Senate confirmation vote on its nominee for the post, Chuck Hagel.

The Senate Armed Services Committee had been expected to vote on Hagel's nomination this week to prepare for a debate in the full chamber, but Republicans are demanding more information on Hagel's past paid speeches.

"We continue to expect the Senate to act quickly to confirm Senator Hagel," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

"This is a uniquely qualified nominee for the post of secretary of defense. The position needs to be filled."

The Armed Services committee delayed Thursday's expected vote on the nomination after Republicans demanded more details of the speeches Hagel gave and was paid for after leaving the Senate in 2009.

Hagel's team and the White House however says the former senator has given voluminous details to the committee, including many remarks for which no text or transcript exists.

Hagel has angered several Republicans with some of his positions on Iran, Israel and US war policy.

In a Senate confirmation hearing last week he was grilled for hours on past positions on the Iraq war and sanctions regarding Tehran's nuclear program.

Republicans say they have yet to receive key information about payments that Hagel accepted for some of his speeches.

Jim Inhofe, the top Republican on the Armed Services Committee, said a lawmaker could seek to delay a vote in the full Senate by putting a hold on the nomination, should it manage to pass out of committee.

Million sign petition for Spain PM to quit

MADRID (AFP) - A petition calling for Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to resign over a corruption scandal has garnered more than a million signatures, an online count showed on Thursday.

The petition at change.org was sparked by the publication of documents purportedly showing that Rajoy and

other members of his conservative Popular Party had received undeclared payments.

"I demand the immediate resignation of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and the calling of snap elections, as well as the resignation of any member of the Popular Party named in the documents who holds office publicly or in the party," the petition read.

On Thursday afternoon the number of signatories logged on the online petition was 1,017,188 and counting - about one signature for every 47 people in Spain.

Rajoy has resisted calls from the opposition Socialist Party and from angry street protestors to resign over the scandal.

It came at a sensitive time for Spain as Rajoy's government imposes spending cuts and tax rises on Spaniards suffering in a recession.

The allegations are based on account ledgers purportedly written by the party's former treasurer Luis Barcenas and published in leading centre-left newspaper El Pais a week ago.

Rajoy, Barcenas and the party have denied the alleged secret payments and said the ledgers are false.

Barcenas on Wednesday went before an anti-corruption prosecutor investigating the affair. In that hearing Barcenas repeated his denial that the party kept secret accounts, Spanish media said.

Blizzard could hit US northeast on Friday

NEW YORK (AFP) - Heavy snow and blizzard conditions are forecasted to hit the crowded US northeast on Friday as two winter storms converge on the region.

New England has had a relatively mild winter so far, but a healthy dose of snow, rain, ice and strong winds was expected from Friday into Saturday, before clearing up.

The National Weather service warned Thursday of "a major winter storm."

"As much as one to two

feet (30cm to 60cm) of snow is forecast from the New York City metro area to Maine, with localized heavier amounts possible," the government service said.

"This, in addition to wind gusts as high as 60-75 mph will create significant impacts to transportation and power. Coastal flooding is also possible from Boston northward."

According to the commercial AccuWeather service, New York City could escape fairly lightly, though there's a chance of the Big Apple being buried in snow if the two storm systems -- one from the west and one from the south -- merge quickly enough.

Such an outcome "would translate to a foot or more of heavy, wet snow around New York City," AccuWeather said.

Even without that much, "enough snow will fall to cause travel problems and winds can be strong enough for a time to cause downed tree limbs and sporadic power outages."

New York Fashion Week gets off to glamorous start



(L-R) Supermodel Heidi Klum, fashion designer Michael Kors, New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, and designer Kenneth Cole attend the amfAR New York Gala to kick off Fall 2013 Fashion Week at Cipriani Wall Street

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Fashion Week injected a bit of color and glamour into wintry Manhattan on Thursday, with the first of 300 autumn-winter collections for men and women unveiled on the runways.

The opener was Nicholas K, with BCBG Max Azria

and Kenneth Cole also in the first day's line-up, before a long weekend unfolds with stars like Alexander Wang ready to unveil their latest designs.

Late Wednesday, an opening gala hosted by the AIDS charity amfAR saw designers Michael Kors and Kenneth

Cole, and German supermodel Heidi Klum, accompany Mayor Michael Bloomberg for the red-ribbon cutting.

The gala buzzed with models and entertainment celebrities -- "Sex and the City" actress Sarah Jessica Parker donned a Maison Martin Margiela Couture dress, and A-list model Karlie Kloss was seen in Michael Kors.

With the number of shows growing ever longer, some, like young designer Tanya Taylor, jumped the gun and got their collections out early.

Taylor presented her third collection in the Museum of Modern Art ahead of the official kick-off, with outfits that she described as including "a bit of masculine attitude, some oversize pieces" and "exaggerated shoulders."

The Taylor woman "still has a feminine touch, the pink fur, the leather," she said.



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International News

Guatemalan arrested with \$31,000 in stomach



PANAMA CITY (AFP) - A Guatemalan woman was arrested at Panama's international airport as she tried to enter the country with more than \$31,000 in cash stashed inside her stomach, Panamanian police said Wednesday.

The 44-year-old, whose identity was withheld, was arrested Monday after police conducted an X-ray of the woman who was exhibiting

"suspicious behavior," according to the authorities.

At least 39 different bundles that had been in her stomach were recovered by police, who estimated a total sum of \$31,200.

The detainee was expected to expel the remaining bundles at a hospital in Panama City, where the authorities will determine the final amount she was illegally carrying.

Indonesian police arrest seven for baby trafficking

JAKARTA (AFP) - Indonesian police said Thursday they had arrested seven women involved in an alleged child trafficking ring suspected of selling dozens of babies since the 1990s, some of them in Singapore.

"We arrested seven women involved in buying and selling babies in early January in West Jakarta," city police spokesman Rikwanto told AFP.

"They included midwives and we think there are more people involved. Based on interrogations, we believe this ring has been operating since the 90s."

Rikwanto, who goes by one name, said that police suspected babies plucked from Indonesian hospitals and given false identities were listed on the manifests of several flights to Singapore and were likely being sold there.

"Our investigation has found that the women would buy the babies from poor mothers, promising financial incentives and telling them the babies would live better lives with wealthier families," he said.

The suspects bought the babies for between \$1,500 and \$2,000 depending on their "beauty and health condition" and sold them for up to \$8,250, with boys fetching higher prices, Rikwanto said.

Police last month investigated an advertisement offering two babies for sale at \$1,000 each on the popular auction and shopping website Tokobagus.com. Rikwanto said the two investigations were not connected.

Dutch debate rights of three or more gay parents

AMSTERDAM (AFP) - "I think my friends are a little jealous, because I've got two mummies and two daddies and they've only got two parents," says Simon, 6, squirming with his brother Joaquin, 3, on the knees of their four gay parents.

While Britain and France in the last week plodded ahead with gay marriage draft legislation, the first country in the world to legalise same-sex unions, the Netherlands in 2001, is already one step ahead.

The Dutch justice ministry is about to commission a report examining the possibility of recognising three parents or more for one child, notably to protect so-called "pink" families.

Legally speaking, while Simon and Joaquin have four parents -- Joram, Guillermo, Karin and Evelien, all in their 30s -- only the two women have the right to call themselves parents.

The two men cannot take major medical decisions for the children, and if the men die the children do not have the usual inheritance rights.

If the couples were to have a bust-up, Karin and Evelien would have the right to demand that Joram and Guillermo no longer play any role in the boys' lives.

Joram, Evelien, Guillermo and Karin were flatmates during their time as students in Amsterdam and the two couples remained friends afterwards.

When they wanted to have children, they decided to do it together, themselves rather than as two couples seeking adoption or a sperm donor.

Evelien and Karin each gave birth to a child, one fathered by Joram and one by Guillermo, but the family doesn't want to reveal who are each child's bi-

ological parents.

"That's unimportant, what matters is that we're all four of us their parents and that we love them," said Karin.

The children spend the week with their mothers in the eastern city of Arnhem, where the two fathers come every Thursday to look after them.

Weekends are spent as a family of six, often in Amsterdam, in Joram and Guillermo's flat.

Holidays are also spent as a family, as are birthdays or parent-teacher meetings at Simon's school.

Changing the law on parenting would not only benefit "pink" families, but also divorced parents who marry someone who takes on the role of parent," said Green lawmaker Liesbeth van Tongeren, who tabled a parliamentary motion after which the ministry agreed to investigate.

"We need to broaden the concept (of what is a family), no longer can you see parenting as a purely biological link or say that a child can only have two parents," Van Tongeren told AFP, saying there are between 20,000 and 25,000 children living in "pink" families in the Netherlands.

Junior Justice Minister Fred Teveen, however, said at a debate in parliament in October there were potentially many practical objections to changing the law and that he would await the report's conclusions.

Philip Tijsma, spokesman for the world's oldest gay rights group, COC, said: "You won't solve all the problems, there will always be conflicts."

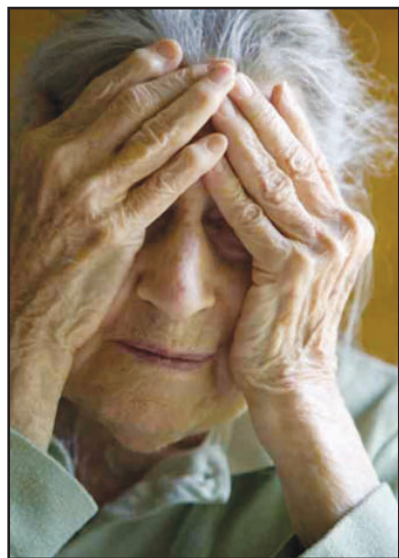
"But in any case there will be some security for the child, because they'll know that their father or third mother can't just disappear from their life one day to the next," he told AFP.



PYEONGCHANG : South Korean and US Marines run on a snowy hill during a joint winter drill in Pyeongchang, some 180 kilometers east of Seoul, on February 7, 2013. Marines from South Korea and the United States took part in a military winter drills, which began on February 4 and run through February 22, to test their limits in extreme conditions.

Health & Living

Alzheimer's cases to triple by 2050: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Alzheimer's disease cases in the US will nearly triple in the next 40 years, according to new projections that suggest there will be nearly 14 million sufferers by 2050.

In 2010, there were just 4.7

million people with Alzheimer's disease in the United States.

The researchers who made the projections attribute the predicted increase to the high numbers of "baby boomers" -- the especially large generation born after World War II -- who are now reaching old age.

More than half of those with the disease by 2050, some seven million people, will be 85 or older, the researchers said.

The trend has been noted in the past, but the new study updates the figures, and highlights the need for doctors and others to get in gear in anticipation, said co-author Jennifer Weuve, from the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

The high numbers of Alzheimer's sufferers "will place a huge burden on soci-

ety, disabling more people who develop the disease, challenging their caregivers, and straining medical and social safety nets," Weuve explained.

"Our study draws attention to an urgent need for more research, treatments and preventive strategies to reduce this epidemic," she added.

For the study, the authors analyzed nearly two decades of data from 10,802 African Americans and whites, aged 65 and older, living in Chicago.

Every three years from 1993 to 2011, the study participants were interviewed and assessed for dementia, while taking into account age, race, and educational level.

The researchers also factored in US death rates, education, and current and future population estimates from the US census bureau.

Indian women dumped in field after sterilisations

KOLKATA (AFP) - Scores of women were dumped unconscious in a field after a mass sterilisation in eastern India because there was no room in hospital for them to recuperate, medical officials said Thursday.

The women had all undergone surgical procedures at a hospital in the Malda district of West Bengal, around 360 kilometres (220 miles) north of Kolkata, which officials admitted was not equipped to accommodate such a large number of patients.

The scandal came to light after news channel NDTV aired amateur footage of unconscious women being carried out of the hospital Tuesday by men and then placed on open land.

Local health officials acknowledged that the patients' treatment was unacceptable and promised an inquiry.

"Over 100 women, mostly poor, came to the camp for the surgery. Immediately after the procedure, the doctors asked the helpers to move each of them to the adjacent field," Biswa Ranjan Satpathi, West Bengal's director of health services, told AFP in Kolkata.

"This is inhuman and we have ordered a probe into the incident," he added.

Medical experts also voiced shock over conditions at the hospital, where four doctors carried out a total of 106 sterilisations in one day.

Uday Roy, a health campaigner who was present at the sterilisation camp, said some

of the women were shoved on rickshaws after surgery even though they were clearly in no fit state to make any kind of journey.

"A woman sterilised in the hospital fell off the rickshaw on the way to her home and she had to be hospitalised with severe injuries," said Roy who works at Debalaya Trust, a voluntary organisation providing free medical services.

Unlike China, India has no laws limiting the number of children a family can have.

However given its billion-plus population, local governments often offer incentives such as cars and electrical goods to couples volunteering for sterilisation.



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Mexican girl, 9, gives birth, authorities seek father

GUADALAJARA (AFP) - A nine-year-old Mexican girl has given birth and authorities are looking for the presumed father, who is 17, officials said Wednesday.

The girl, identified as Dafne, gave birth by Cesarean section to a baby girl weighing 2.7 kilos (5.7 pounds) and measuring 50 centimeters (20 inches) on January 27 in a hospital in the western state of Jalisco.

The girl was not seen by doctors during her pregnancy and was almost in labor when she arrived at the hospital, said Enrique Rabago, director of the Occidente General Hospital where the child gave birth in the town of Zapopan.

"It is dismaying that a young girl became pregnant. You shouldn't be pregnant at this age," Rabago told a news conference.

A C-section was carried out because it was safer for the mother and baby, he said. The two were released in good condition and they will have an extensive follow-up in the coming days due to the mother's age.

The hospital notified the authorities of the birth.

Sources in the Jalisco state prosecutor's office told AFP that the girl declared that she had consensual sex.

The girl and the teenager were apparently a couple, the source said. The boy offered that the girl live with him when he found out she was

pregnant, but she refused.

But Jorge Villaseñor, an official at the prosecutor's office, described the encounter as a case of rape or child abuse.

"We are looking for the young man to get his story because she does not understand what has happened. This is a rape or child sex abuse case," he said on Tuesday.

Dafne's mother said the girl was eight when she became pregnant.

A source close to the investigation said Dafne comes from a large family in Ixtlahuacan de los Membrillos, a humble village some 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Guadalajara.

Each year, 480,000 girls between the ages of 14 and 18 give birth in Mexico, according to the health ministry.

"There are pregnancies among teenagers, but girls between 10 and 12 years old are exceptions and most of the time it is due to a rape," Doctor Antonio Flores Villalón, a reproductive health specialist in Mexico City, told AFP.

"Girls are still growing at that age. They are physically immature, and this puts them at higher risk," he said. "This is the case for all minors who are under 18, but when they are under 15, the risks increase."

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Sci-Tech

More arguments regarding the wind park at Urirama

--This week, in a public meeting in Parliament, Minister of Infrastructure, Benny Sievinger, went into great detail during his presentation concerning the placement of wind mills at Urirama. His explanations were directed to both Parliament and the rather large public who came to witness the hearing in Parliament.

The Minister pointed out that, as an example, the first wind park at Vader Piet, they constructed the mills about 375 meters away from the first home in the area. Whereas for the second park to be built in Urirama, they have programed a distance of 940 meters from the first home. By this, he was showing how that they are keeping within the norms set by Holland.

According to Sievinger, "...We are building today to conserve what we have now for future generations." He went on to explain why this second



Wind park at Vaderpiet in San Nicolas

windpark is so important.

According to Sievinger, because Aruba is so small there is very limited areas where this type of structure could be erected, and that Urirama is where this has to go since on the other side of the island there is no space for a wind park.

With respect to the financial savings, Sievinger indicated that if we are paying 0.38 cents today for the production of every kilowatt hour, with the second windpark, the cost of production will drop to 0.17 cents.

Sievinger attests that the government of Aruba is making this decision while taking all matters into account. Says he, the decision is being taken in proper balance with the general interest of the island of Aruba and is being carefully weighed.

With respect to the health issue of citizens living in the area, he indicated that the United Nations has proven that there is no concrete evidence to show that this will affect anyone healthwise.

The government's plight is to work towards a future green Aruba, and apparently at whatever cost. They are intent on changing our water and electricity production system, as well as other aspects so as to produce a better environment free of pollutants and to reduce the cost to citizens. And, again...doing so at whatever cost!



TOKYO (AFP) - : Kokoro, a subsidiary of Japanese character goods maker Sanrio, displays the company's humanoid robot called "Actroid" (L) and its internal workings (R) at Sanrio's headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. The robot, whose head, eyes, mouth and face is powered by compressed air, was on display during Sanrio's annual exhibition

Yahoo! in online ad alliance with Google



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Yahoo! announced an advertising alliance with Google, the company that dethroned the pioneering Internet firm in the world of Internet search.

Google will use its online ad targeting skills at some Yahoo! properties, stepping in to put relevant marketing messages in available spaces, according to Sunnyvale, California-based Yahoo!.

Yahoo! gave the example of someone online shopping for boots being shown an ad for something completely unrelated because no advertisements for footwear were available in inventory.

"If you see an ad for boots, that's instantly going to pique your attention more than an ad for, say, a car battery," Yahoo! said.

"That's better for users. This is why contextual advertising is such a powerful tool."

The large stocks of ads at Google AdSense and Admob increase opportunities to present Yahoo! website users with

marketing messages they will click on, generating revenue.

"By adding Google to our list of world-class contextual ads partners, we'll be able to expand our network, which means we can serve users with ads that are even more meaningful," Yahoo! said.

"For our users, there won't be a noticeable difference in how or where ads appear."

The move comes amid turnaround efforts by Yahoo! chief executive Marissa Mayer, who was a high-level Google executive before taking the Yahoo! helm in July.

It also raised the possibility of Yahoo! turning to Google to power Internet searches at its website, once freed from its current deal to use Microsoft's Bing service.

Yahoo! has been trying to reinvent itself since the once-flourishing Internet search service found itself withering in Google's shadow.

Yahoo! shares rose slightly in electronic trading to \$20.10.



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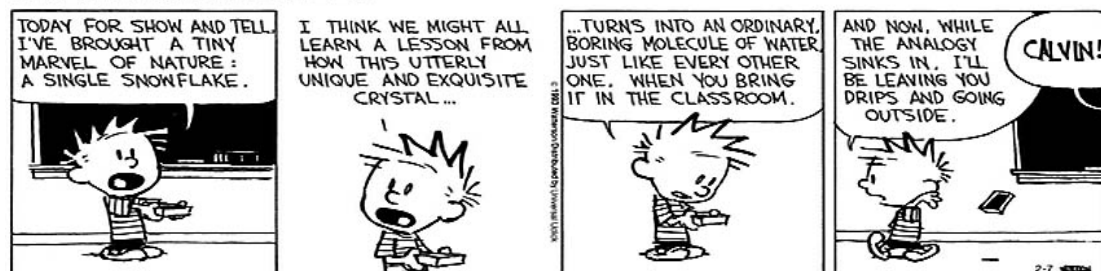
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WHAT A CULTURED JEWEL

ACROSS

1. "___ by Night" (Stanwyck film)
6. Ed Sullivan, e.g.
11. Item in the janitor's closet
14. Lofty nest
15. Like Falwell's Majority
16. Tax shelter: abbr.
17. Aquatic gem seekers
19. Mrs. Walter Mitty, e.g.
20. Removes peels
21. Poker starter
22. "Unsafe at Any ___"
25. Many-legged kids' game
28. Guides the car
29. Feeble
30. River ducks
31. Wall section
32. %: abbr.
35. Is human
36. Baptismal bowls
37. Use a branding iron
38. Flo's boss
39. Fees
40. In the know
41. Post WWII babe
43. Lets off easy
44. Eden, for one
45. Utilize
46. French export
47. Pester playfully
50. Suffer
51. Bombing target of 12/7/41
57. Spot where shares are traded: abbr.
58. Ex of Lana

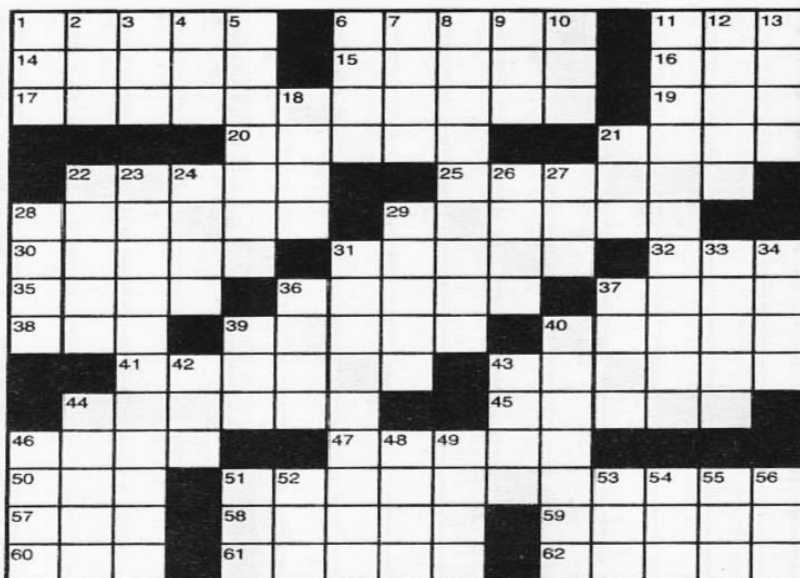
59. Prepared
60. Swinecote
61. Adolescents
62. Mall madness

DOWN

1. Baseball's Anson
2. Gypsy Rose
3. Altar constellation
4. "___ Gawain and the Green Knight"
5. Assistants
6. Kuwait official
7. Stir
8. Certain moons
9. Otic organ
10. Loop loopers
11. Singer who often dueted

12. Make the keynote speech
13. Errand boy
18. Ward and Ozzie, on TV
21. Counterpart of the Pac.
22. Firewood measure
23. "Porgy and Bess" star
24. Electric creatures
26. Billfold items
27. Tanker cargo
28. Florist's unit
29. More reasonable
31. Sovereign
33. Cuomo's predecessor
34. Exceedingly, in Paree

36. David Bowie's 1975 #1
37. Cashless transaction
39. Retina feature
40. Comes into view
42. Native mineral
43. Window part
44. Grain to be ground
46. Sheep sounds
48. Ireland, in poems
49. Some drafts
51. Actor Morita
52. Prior to, in poems
53. GOP mem.
54. Roadblock
55. "___ to Joy" (Schiller)
56. Bread grain



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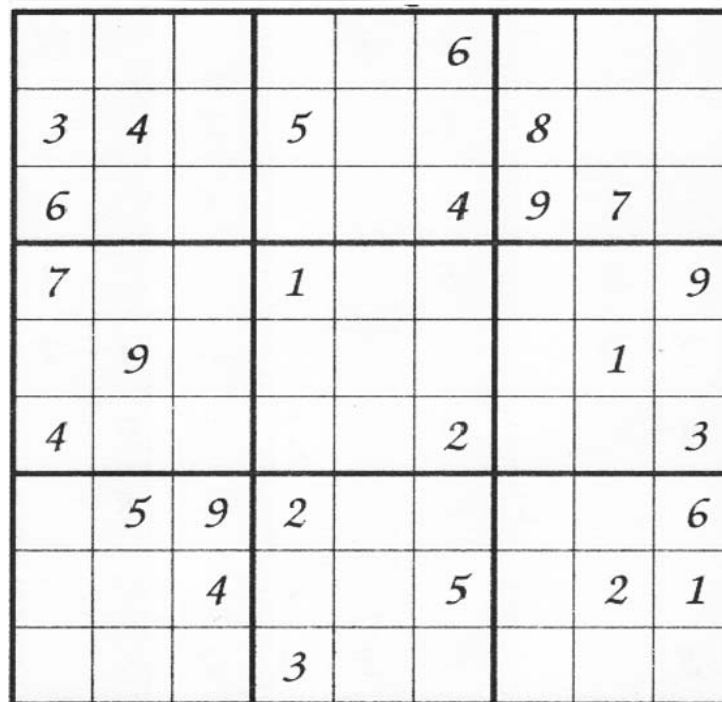
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	6	5	1	4	9	7	2	3
1	2	3	5	6	9	7	8	4
9	7	8	4	2	6	5	1	3
5	9	2	7	6	8	1	4	3
2	1	2	8	9	7	6	5	4
6	8	7	5	1	2	9	4	3
5	2	6	7	8	1	2	9	4
2	9	8	6	1	5	2	7	4
7	5	1	9	2	3	8	6	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

NY Times making more from readers than advertising

NEW YORK (AFP) - The New York Times Co. said Thursday that money from readers and subscribers overtook advertising revenues for the first time ever in 2012, as the media group reported a boost in profits.

The company, which is attempting to navigate a shift from print to digital, said its fourth quarter profit more than tripled to \$176.9 million, though most of that came from a \$164 million gain on the sale of its stake in the online jobs website Indeed.com.

Still, the company beat most forecasts with a profit amounting to 32 cents a share excluding special items, and revenues increasing 5.2 percent to \$575

million in the period.

For the full year, the group posted a profit of \$133 million, compared with a loss of \$39.7 million in 2011.

Mark Thompson, the former BBC chief who became president and chief executive at the Times last November, said progress was being made, noting that the number of digital subscribers grew 13 percent in the quarter to 668,000.

The company said paid subscribers to The New York Times and the International Herald Tribune rose 13 percent to 640,000 as of the end of the fourth quarter.

Its Boston Globe unit had 28,000 paid subscribers, up eight percent over the third

quarter of 2012.

For 2012, the company's circulation revenues rose to \$954 million, outstripping the \$898 million from advertising.

The company ended the year with \$955 million in cash and short-term investments.

The Times began charging in March 2011 for full access to NYTimes.com and it launched a subscription-only website for the Boston Globe later that year.

The group said circulation revenues are projected to increase in the mid-single digits in the first quarter of 2013 because of digital subscription initiatives and from a rise in the newspaper's price in 2013's first quarter.

George Lucas prepares to cash out Disney stock

NEW YORK (AFP) - "Star Wars" creator George Lucas is preparing a possible sale of his \$2.02 billion stake in Walt Disney, according to a filing by the company Wednesday with US federal regulators.

The document filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission aims to allow the potential sale of the 37.1 million Disney shares in Lucas's trust. But the move does not necessarily mean a sale will take place.

The company has not indicated when it could sell the shares, nor how many it would sell, and the document said Disney could decide against selling any at all.

"The selling security holder has not informed us, and we do not know, when or in what amounts the selling security holder may offer for sale the shares of common stock pursuant to this offering," it added.

"The selling security holder may choose not to sell any of the shares offered by this prospectus."

Disney paid Lucas partly in shares when it purchased his LucasFilm Ltd last year for \$4.05 billion.

The transaction paved the way for Disney to plan a new trilogy in the wildly popular

Star Wars sci-fi saga, which has raked in an estimated \$4.4 billion since 1977.

Three new films are expected to come out every two to three years starting in 2015.



KABUL (AFP) - Afghan men walk on a snow covered mountain on a cold winter's day outside Kabul on February 7, 2013. Despite massive injections of foreign aid since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, Afghanistan remains desperately poor with the lowest standards in the world.



CADIZ (AFP) - : A member of a chirigota, a group that sings humorous and satirical songs during Carnival, holds fake bank notes as he performs "Las verdades del banquero" (the truths of the banker) during the Carnival of Cadiz Southern Spain.



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Greenlight sues Apple, with eye on cash pile

NEW YORK (AFP) - US hedge fund Greenlight Capital Thursday filed suit against Apple as it boosted pressure on the tech giant to unleash to shareholders the value of its huge capital stockpile.

Greenlight sued the maker of iPhones and iPads to block a shareholder vote that includes a proposal, supported by management, to make it impossible for the Apple board to decide to issue preferred stock.

The hedge fund alleged that Apple violated US securities policies by "bundling" the proposal on preferred stock with two other shareholder-friendly measures.

Doing so forces shareholders to accept or reject all three measures together, rather than separately, which Greenlight says violates a Securities and Exchange Commission rule.

More broadly, Greenlight argues that eliminating Apple's power to issue preferred shares would restrict Apple's ability to return value to shareholders.

"Like many other shareholders, Greenlight is dissatisfied with Apple's capital allocation strategy," Greenlight founder

David Einhorn wrote in a letter to Apple shareholders.

"The combination of Apple's low (and shrinking) price-to-earnings multiple and \$137 billion (and growing) hoard of cash on the balance sheet supports Greenlight's contention that Apple has an obligation to examine all options to create and unlock additional value," Einhorn said.

Greenlight is seeking to build support for its proposal that Apple issue a "perpetual preferred stock" that could carry, in Einhorn's suggestion, a four percent dividend, allowing shareholders to better share in its idle cash pile.

Such a "more shareholder-friendly capital allocation policy," Einhorn said in the letter, "would unlock hundreds of dollars of value per share."

Greenlight said it has held discussions with Apple, but the company rejected the proposal "outright" in September 2012.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Apply shares were up more than one percent at \$459.50 in midday trade Thursday.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

PART	READE	SHAW
ERIN	ESSEX	HONE
TESTO	TIME	IOTA
INE	MIEN	TOPPER
TANLINE	HERO	
ATE	BORN	FREE
ARAB	DRAW	ISERE
ROTOR	ASI	STEER
ADORE	ITES	ALSO
LEMONADE	TAT	
FENS	BANEFUL	
EAGLES	WIFE	ANA
ARNO	WAROF	WORDS
SLAV	ELITE	AGES
TOTE	RETAR	TORO

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 02/07/2013	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.84
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	197.34
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	243.69
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.48
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.90
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	33.01
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	192.06

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Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge featuring live music this Sunday



--Aruba's newest lounge, Brickell Bay Sand Beach, in Palm Beach, created quite a stir with its recent opening, revealing a chic, unique environment that has strongly attracted island fashionistas as a relaxed, elegant place to



while away the evening hours.

The new eatery/nightclub has live music twice weekly, and this Sunday will feature one of the island's most popular and dynamic entertainers of the last decade, Marisela and the Aquarius Band. She is back on Aruba for a limited engagement and will be appearing every Sun-

day through January at Brickell Bay Sand Beach Lounge.

Marisela will be heating up Palm Beach for a very cool night each weekend beginning this Sunday, January 6, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. This is a performer known for "bringing down the house," so don't miss this rare opportunity to enjoy some great entertainment and discover Aruba's most stylish new nightspot.



Every Wednesday, The Ryders will be rockin' the house from 9:00 PM until midnight. Enjoy two for one drinks on all brands, even premium, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM every Monday through Thursday, and from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, with an additional late night "Happy

Hour" on the weekends from 10:00 to 11:00 PM.

Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge is located directly across the street from the South Beach Center. If you are wondering what is new and hip on Aruba, this is it!

US singer back in court for alleged sentence breach

LOS ANGELES, (AFP) - A judge ordered a probation report Wednesday into allegations that US singer Chris Brown has breached the terms of a sentence imposed for his notorious 2009 assault on then girlfriend Rihanna.

Los Angeles Superior



Chris Brown with girlfriend Rihanna

Court Judge James Brandlin said Brown must appear in court again on April 5, and ordered him to contact his probation officer within 48 hours, following the prosecution allegations this week.

The R&B singer was sentenced to five years of probation, a year-long domestic violence program and 180 days of community service after assaulting Rihanna on the eve of the 2009 Grammys.

A photo of Rihanna's bruised face triggered shock and anger at the singer. Although he remains on probation, Brown had been repeatedly praised by the judge for complying with the terms of his sentence.

But in court papers filed Tuesday, prosecutors claimed that the singer had failed to complete the community labor

as ordered, and was in fact elsewhere on some of the dates he claimed to be carrying out his sentence.

Deputy District Attorney Mary Murray cited "significant discrepancies" and "sloppy documentation" in reports about the 23-year-old's reported community labor work in his native Virginia.

Brown and Rihanna were photographed being clearly intimate and affectionate with each other in public last month, at an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the New York Knicks in Los Angeles.

The Grammys, the music industry's biggest awards showcase, are scheduled to take place Sunday at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.



LONDON (AFP) : An employee tends to Moth Orchids during a photocall to mark the opening of the Orchids display in the Princess of Wales Conservatory at Kew Royal Botanic Gardens in west London on February 7, 2013. The Orchids display will run from February 9 to March 3, 2013.



ALLAHABAD (AFP) - Former manual scavengers take a 'holy dip' at Sangam, the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers during the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad on February 7, 2013. 100-odd former scavenger women from Rajasthan's Alwar and Tonk districts, rehabilitated by NGO Sulabh International, took a holy dip at Sangam, performed puja and had lunch with priests at the Kumbh Mela.

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15 MINUTE ENGLISH LIFESTYLE & NEWS SHOW

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Sport

Football: Brazil must improve to win World Cup, says Neymar

BERLIN (AFP) - Brazil have a long way to go if they are to add a sixth World Cup victory to their collection on home soil next year, striker Neymar believes.

In an interview with German press agency SID, a subsidiary of AFP, after the 2-1 defeat by England at Wembley, Neymar said the Brazilians needed to improve their team game.

"We tried everything we could, but it wasn't enough," said the 21-year-old, billed as the new Pele.

Brazil have slipped alarmingly down the world rankings in the past two years and are now a lowly 18th.

His contract at Brazil's FC Santos expires in 2014 and Neymar has said it is his "childhood dream" to eventually play for a European club.

With Pep Guardiola to take charge of Bayern Munich for next season, Neymar spoke enthusiastically about the Bavarian giants.

South America's player of the year for 2011 and 2012 said he has been particularly impressed with Germany's midfielder star and Bayern's vice-captain Bastian Schweinsteiger.

"Schweinsteiger is one of the best player I've ever seen," said Neymar.

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Motorcycling: Pedrosa again edges out rival Lorenzo

SEPANG (AFP) - Spain's Dani Pedrosa remained the fastest rider on the final day of the first pre-season MotoGP testing at Malaysia's Sepang circuit on Thursday, but times stayed extremely close.

Honda's Pedrosa had led the pack on Tuesday and Wednesday, and on Thursday he again edged out his countryman and Yamaha rival Jorge Lorenzo.

While lap times improved across the board on a sunny final day, Honda's MotoGP rookie Marc Marquez suffered his first MotoGP fall this year during early testing but walked away unscathed.

Nine-times world champion Valentino Rossi was third while Marquez, a former 125cc world champion and reigning Moto2 title holder, took fourth.

Unlike the first two days of cloudy skies and rain late Wednesday, the final test day saw sunshine and dry track which let the riders push their bikes.

On the last day, the gap between Pedrosa's 2 minutes 00.100 seconds and Lorenzo's best effort was just 0.329 seconds.



Returning Yamaha star Valentino Rossi of Italy kept himself in the top group again with third, 0.442 seconds off the pace.

Marquez, who is preparing for his first season in MotoGP, was fourth and 0.536 seconds clear of his Honda team-mate Pedrosa.

Pedrosa said he was confident with the performance of his Honda but insisted there was still work to be done on its shock absorbers and clutch, which were a problem last season.

Pedrosa, 27, is in the hunt for his first MotoGP championship. He has finished MotoGP title runner-up on three occasions since his 2006 debut.

Marquez expressed pleasure at his performance. "I am happy. I have been consistent every day. I hope to continue like that," he told reporters.

Lorenzo said he would focus more on the bike's acceleration and traction during the next test.

Rossi said he no longer had doubts about returning to competitive MotoGP racing after

three hard days of testing, and hinted he was eyeing a podium finish from the first race of the

season.

British rider Cal Crutchlow on a Yamaha was 0.634 seconds off the pace at fifth.

The Ducatis of Nicky Hayden and Andrea Dovizioso stood at ninth and tenth rankings.

The second test session will be at Sepang from February 26 to 28, while the third will be in Jerez from March 23 to 25.

The opening round of the MotoGP world championship will be in Qatar under floodlights on April 7. Malaysia will host round 15 on October 13.

Auto Racing: Viso among four to drive for Andretti



INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Venezuelan racer E.J. Viso has signed to drive for Andretti Autosport in the upcoming IndyCar season, giving the team four cars in the series in 2013, owner Michael Andretti said Thursday. The deal announced Thursday will see the South American speedster join reigning series champion Ryan Hunter-Reay and fellow American Marco Andretti plus Canadian James Hinchcliffe in the Andretti line-up. "I could not ask for more than to get the opportunity to drive for a championship team," Viso said. Viso has managed 18 top-10 finishes with a career-best finish of third at Iowa in 2010. Andretti's team will be the largest in the US-based open-wheel series in the new season, which begins March 24 at St. Petersburg, Florida.



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Tennis: Ashe medals, memorabilia sold on anniversary



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Trophies and treasures belonging to black tennis icon Arthur Ashe, including the passport he used to enter apartheid-era South Africa, sold at auction Wednesday on the 20th anniversary of his death.

Other items which went under the hammer included Ashe's personal diaries from 1972-1993, handwritten copies of his speeches on black athleticism, civil rights and AIDS, and personal items including Davis Cup jackets.

His passport, including a visa "issued for the purpose of participating in the S.A. tennis tournament 16-25 Nov. 1973," went under the hammer for \$4,153 at the sale held by Nate

D. Sanders Auctions.

Among the highest prices fetched were \$21,013 for his 1971 Wimbledon Men's Double runner-up medal, and \$13,045 for his jacket from the 1962 US Junior Davis Cup.

His death certificate went for \$4,652, according to the auctioneer's website. His wisdom teeth were included in items announced for sale before the auction, but there was no immediate sign of them having been sold Wednesday.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale will benefit the Arthur Ashe Learning Center, a non-profit group that promotes Ashe's legacy of scholarship, sports, health and service.

Ashe was the first black man to win at the US Open, doing so in 1968, and at Wimbledon, taking that title in 1975. As a tennis pioneer he tore down barriers in sport and civil rights.

US firm sues Armstrong over bonus money

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US insurance firm on Thursday filed a lawsuit against disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong seeking restitution of \$12 million in bonus money paid to the American for his Tour de France triumphs.

The Texas-based company, SCA Promotions, wants Armstrong to repay money the firm insured from his Tour victories in 2002, 2003 and 2004, after he was stripped of his record seven Tour titles last year.

"It is time now for Mr Armstrong to face the consequences of his actions," SCA's complaint said. "This includes returning all of the funds paid to him by SCA, which totals more than \$12 million."

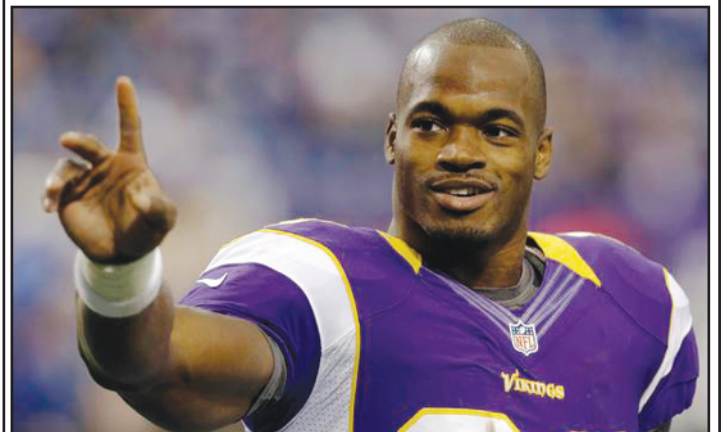
The filing in a Texas state

court not only could cost Armstrong financially but could force him to testify under oath about the doping scandal that ruined his cancer-comeback story and tainted his Livestrong Foundation charity work.

Armstrong was also banned for life when the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) found overwhelming evidence that he was at the heart of a sophisticated doping scheme when his US Postal Service team dominated the Tour de France.

After years of denials, Armstrong confessed last month that he had taken performance-enhancing drugs in sweeping Tour titles from 1999-2005.

NFL: Vikings star rusher Peterson undergoes surgery



MINNEAPOLIS (AFP) - Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson underwent successful hernia surgery on Thursday to repair a torn abdominal muscle, the National Football League team announced. "We expect a speedy recovery with no long-term concerns," the Vikings said in a statement following the operation by William Meyers in Philadelphia. Peterson ran 348 times for 2,097 yards and 12 touchdowns last season, falling just shy of the NFL one-season record of 2,105 rushing yards established by Eric Dickerson in 1984. And Peterson, who also made 40 catches for 217 yards, sparked the Vikings into the NFL playoffs only one season after suffering torn knee ligaments. Minnesota was ousted by Green Bay in the opening round of the post-season before the Baltimore Ravens went on to win Super Bowl 47 last Sunday, with a thrilling 34-31 victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

Messi with Barca until 2018



BARCELONA (AFP) - A handout picture taken and released on February 7, 2013 by FC Barcelona shows Barcelona's Lionel Messi (L) shaking hands with Barcelona's president Sandro Rosell after signing his new contract with the Catalan club at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona. Lionel Messi has signed a new contract that will tie him to Barcelona until 2018, the club announced today.

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NBA: Clippers take down lowly Magic, Heat cool off red-hot Rockets



Los Angeles Clippers' DeAndre Jordan dunks against the Orlando Magic

ORLANDO (AFP) - Eric Bledsoe had 27 points, six rebounds and six steals as the short-manned Los Angeles Clippers defeated the Orlando Magic 86-76 on Wednesday.

DeAndre Jordan added 13 points and 14 rebounds for the Clippers, who snapped a three-game National Basketball Association losing streak.

Los Angeles were forced to use their reserves due to injuries to Blake Griffin and Chris Paul.

Griffin missed his second consecutive contest with a strained left hamstring and Paul sat out his ninth straight game with a bruised right kneecap.

Jameer Nelson led Orlando with 18 points and five rebounds, while Nikola Vucevic finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds for

the Magic, who lost their 11th straight game. Orlando have just two wins and 22 defeats since December 21.

While in Miami -The Miami Heat continued their domination over Houston by beating the Rockets 114-108 Wednesday behind 32 points from LeBron James and Dwyane Wade's 31 points and

The Rockets' loss came one day after they blitzed Golden State for a record-tying 23 three-pointers in an eye-popping 140-109 victory.

James Harden finished with 36 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists for Houston, who haven't won in Miami for over five years, losing four straight in that time.

The Rockets went just nine-of-25 from beyond the arc on Wednesday.

Omer Asik had a double-double with 15 points and 14 rebounds, Patrick Patterson finished with 15 points and



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) blocks an attempted 3-pointer by Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) as Heat forward Udonis Haslem (40) defends late in the second half - The Heat won 114-108.

eight assists.

Wade also had four steals for the defending NBA champion Heat, who have now won seven consecutive games over the Rockets.

Shane Battier finished with 12 points and Norris Cole scored 10 for the Heat who are 20-3 at home this year.

"We had to dig for this. We will take it," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Chandler Parsons and Jeremy Lin added 13 points each.

Miami played without forward Chris Bosh who was out with the flu.

The Heat have won three in a row, four of five and eight of 10. Wednesday's contest was third in a five-game homestand.

The Heat were coming off a hard-fought 99-94 victory at home over the Charlotte Bobcats.

Mexico earns spot in Caribbean Series Finale against the Dominican Republic



Fans of Leones del Escogido of Dominican Republic, cheers their team in the match against Magallanes of Venezuela

HERMOSILLO, Mexico - Luis Mendoza (Royals) pitched 7.1 scoreless innings, and former major leaguer Marlon Byrd had three RBI to help Mexico's Yaquis de Ciudad Obregón defeat Puerto Rico's Criollos de Caguas 10-0 and clinch a spot in the final game of the 2013 Caribbean Series.

Criollos de Caguas says goodbye to the Series after a 2-4 record. Mexico (3-3) will face Dominican Republic in the "final" game, for the Mexican club major league

veteran Rodrigo Lopez will take the mound, the Dominican has does not announced their starter.

Cuban slugger Donell Linares, who played last summer with Monclova in the Mexican League, smacked a two-run home run in the top of the eighth, breaking a 2-2 tie as the Dominican Republic's Leones del Escogido defeated and eliminated Venezuela's Navegantes de Magallanes from the 2013 Caribbean Series.

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